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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MCE-00 L-03 EB-08 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 EA-10 (ISO) W
----------096833 310528Z /72
R 301345Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5098
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0155

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYA SEEKS MORE NON-SOVIET TRAINING ASSISTANCE

1. WHILE SOVIETS REMAIN LIBYA'S PRINCIPLE SUPPLIER OF HARDWARE AND TRAINING, SERIES ACTIONS IN RECENT MONTHS INDICATE LIBYAN DESIRE TO GREATLY DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF TRAINING.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE RECENT TRIP LIBYAN ARMED FORCES CHIEF BRIGADIER BAKR YOUNIS JABER TO PAKISTAN AND RETURN VISIT BY HIGH LEVEL PAKISTANI MILITARY DELEGATION. LOCAL SOURCES INDICATE LIBYANS ASKED FOR GREATLY EXPANDED, POSSIBLY TREBLED, MILITARY TRAINING MISSION.

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3. RECENT AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN FOR SMALL TRAINING TEAM, THOUGH LESS THAN DESIRED BY LIBYA, IS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD DIVERSIFICATION. WHILE RESULTS OF BAKR YOUNIS JABER'S TRIP TO BELGRADE NOT FULLY KNOWN, ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT STRONGLY SUGGESTS GREATER YUGOSLAV INPUT INTO TRAINING LIBYANS.

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4. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF AN AGREEMENT FOR CZECH ASSISTANCE IN EXPANDED AIR FORCE TRAINING AND WITH THE POLES. NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING LIBYAN MILITARY EITHER AT HOME OR THROUGH PROVISION OF EXPERTS INCLUDE FRANCE (AIR FORCE, NAVY AND AIR DEFENSE), ITALY (ARMY AND AIR FORCE), TURKEY (ARMY, AIR FORCE), GREECE (NAVY), REPUBLIC OF CHINA (COMMUNICATIONS MAINTENANCE).

5. AS WE SEE IT, QADHAFI'S MOTIVES ARE TWOFOLD. FIRST, GIVEN HIS DETERMINATION TO MAKE LIBYA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A CREDIBLE REGIONAL MILITARY POWER REQUIRES VAST AMOUNTS OF TRAINING. AT SAME TIME, FRICTIONS WITH SOVIET ADVISORS AND FEAR OF OVER-DEPENDENCE NO DOUBT LEAD LIBYANS TO SEEK BROAD TRAINING SUPPORT DESPITE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT LANGUAGE AND DIFFERENT METHODS POSE.
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